GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
POWS
ABUL HASNAT KHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of release of 54 Indian prisoners of war languishing in Pakistani jails was raised in Agra Summit;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistan Foreign Office after verification has come out that there is no POW and invited Indian families to visit Pakistani Jails; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the veracity of the Pakistani statement?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is in touch with the family members/relatives of POWs to ascertain their views on the possible utility of such a visit, particularly in view of past experience, and the specific parameters, modalities and conditions that would be required for a productive visit.